

in 1958.⁴⁵ As it presently exists, the Medical Practice Act seems to have fulfilled the hopes of the editors of the earlier *North Carolina Medical Journal*, who said in 1891, in commenting on their disappointment at one of the weakening amendments, this was a law "which we have nursed in its infancy, and in its adolescence have given the best of our labor. . . . We write in full faith that our law will at last crystallize so that it will show no ugly flaws."⁴⁶

The current policies and regulations of the board also represent a gradual growth over many years, though some elements have been surprisingly stable—a stability no doubt reflecting the serious thought and sound judgment of members of the early boards. Some procedures have varied at times. For example, from 1892 to 1900 the examiners were elected to staggered terms, and the same procedure will be tried again beginning in 1962.⁴⁷ Other details have remained unchanged for a remarkably long time; for example, the seal of the board was adopted in 1884, and the form of license used at the present time is the same as that adopted by the first board in June, 1859.⁴⁸ At the same meeting the first board began a record of its work in the form of a Register of Licentiates, which is now in the Hall of History in Raleigh, but there are many gaps in the reporting of its work, though the only actual break in the regularity of the meetings themselves was during and immediately after the Civil War, from 1863 to 1866. The conditions under which the board met were often conducive to carelessness or incompleteness in the keeping of records, as a meeting just prior to that of the medical society meant that members of the examining board must work under pressure to complete their examinations and grading within a few days, and the lack of a permanent office for the secretary formerly caused some of the records to be scattered beyond retrieval. It was for this reason that the board decided in 1944 to establish a permanent and well-equipped office in Raleigh, near the offices of the

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* Ch. 597, p. 545, 1957.

⁴⁶ *Carolina M. J.* 27:101, 1891.

⁴⁷ *Med. Soc., N. C. Trans.* 103:22, 1957 (Supp. to April 1958 issue of *N.C.M.J.*).

⁴⁸ *Med. Soc., N. C. Trans.* 72:66, 1925.